

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /070 W

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R 171030Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4447

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SW, SP, PO

SUBJECT: SWEDISH UNION OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

1. GERMAN LABOR ATTACHE GAVE US BENEFIT HIS CONVERSATION ON APRIL 14 WITH LO GENSEC RUNE MOLIN ON SUBJECTS OF SPAIN AND PORTUGAL. MOLIN HAS BEEN IN PORTUGAL SEVERAL TIMES DURING PAST SIX MONTHS AND MOST RECENTLY WAS MEMBER OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) DELEGATION HEADED BY PARTY SECRETARY STEN ANDERSSON THAT VISITED MADRID EARLIER THIS MONTH FOR TALKS WITH SPANISH SOCIALIST PARTY (PSOE) AND ITS TRADE UNION ALLY, UGT . DELEGATION TOLD PRESS UPON RETURN THAT SDP PLANS TO INCREASE CONTACTS AND WILL GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

2. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION, HOWEVER, MOLIN WAS MUCH LESS SANGUINE ABOUT FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS WITH SPANIARDS. HE DOWNGRADED SIGNIFICANCE OF MADRID MEETINGS, MAINTAINING THAT SPANISH SOCIALISTS ARE BEING KEPT ON TIGHT REIN AND ARE FAR FROM FREE TO DO AS THEY WISH. PERMISSION GIVEN THEM TO
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MEET WITH FOREIGN SYMPATHIZERS, HE ARGUED WAS MERELY

MANEUVER BY FRANCO REGIME TO GIVE OUTSIDE WORLD, AND PARTICULARLY US, IMPRESSION THAT LIBERALIZATION EFFORT IS UNDERWAY. IN REALITY, MOLIN SAID, THERE HAS BEEN NO LOOSENING OF CONTROLS OVER POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND NONE IS INTENDED.

3. EXTENDING REMARKS TO PORTUGAL, MOLIN OPINED THAT SOARES SOCIALISTS, ON OTHER HAND, ARE FAILING TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF BROADER RANGE OF OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE TO THEM. THEY ARE NOT EXERTING INFLUENCE COMMENSURATE WITH THEIR POPULAR STRENGTH DUE TO CAUTIOUS, FOOT-DRAGGING ATTITUDE TOWARDS AFM REGIME. IF THEY PERSIST IN THIS COURSE, HE BELIEVES, THEY ARE BOUND TO BECOME INCREASINGLY ISOLATED AND POWERLESS AND THUS LEAVE UNCONTESTED FIELD TO COMMUNIST OPPONENTS.

4. MOLIN ALSO GAVE HIS IMPRESSION THAT INTERSINDICAL IS NOT ACTIVE POLITICALLY. HE ANTICIPATED THAT INTERSINDICAL GROUP WILL VISIT NORDIC TRADE UNION CENTERS AFTER PORTUGUESE ELECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNDERSTANDING REACHED DURING VISIT TO STOCKHOLM SOME WEEKS AGO BY PORTUGUESE LABOR MINISTER(STOCKHOLM 1408). MOLIN SAID HE HAD NO ILLUSIONS RE PRESENT COMMUNIST SUPREMACY IN INTERSINDICAL BUT FELT LEADERSHIP WAS STILL SUSCEPTIBLE TO CHANGE AND SHOULD THEREFORE BE GIVEN EVERY CHANCE TO MEET AND EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH FREE UNIONS.

5. COMMENT: MOLIN IS DOCTRINAIRE SOCIAL DEMOCRAT AND THIS IS CLEARLY REFLECTED IN ABOVE REMARKS.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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